

What is claimed is:

sub 1

1. A system, comprising:

a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system-created event is due to be created; and

5

a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system.

2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein all events are priced as they become available to the system.

10

3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein all system-created events are created at any time based on a flexible schedule independent of a billing process.

sub 2

4. A system as recited in claim 3, wherein system-created events for a customer may be created in one of less frequently than the customer is billed, as frequently as the customer is billed and more frequently than the customer is billed.

15

5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein summary events are created and maintained in real-time as events are priced.

6 A system as recited in claim 1, wherein all events are available for contribution to summary records for discounting and consolidation.

5 7 A system as recited in claim 1, wherein charges for all events that are relevant to a billing period are calculated and available in the system at the earliest practical time.

8. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein processing for calculating charges to be billed in a current billing period is outside the billing process.

10 9. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein charges for all unbilled events are ready for the billing process and ready for display on-demand.

15 10 A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said pricing process performs real-time recalculation of a charge for any unbilled event when information in the system which impact the charge has changed.

summary 11. A process, comprising:  
determining whether an event is priceable; and  
pricing the event responsive to the determining.

20 sub 12. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein priceable events are priced immediately.

13. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein all charge events are priced in real-time.

summary 14. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein all available charge events for a current billing period are priced at a first opportunity after a prior billing period ends.

15. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein a usage event is priced at a time that the usage occurs.

30 16. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein a recurring charge is calculated after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

17. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein a minimum or a maximum charge is calculated and captured in a summary after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

18. A process as recited in claim 11, wherein charges for summary events are calculated on-demand at a time of charge display.

5  
SUB 19. A process, comprising:  
determining whether a system-created event is due to be created; and  
creating the event responsive to the determining.

10 20. A process as recited in claim 19, wherein system-created events are created independent of other processes.

21. A process as recited in claim 19, wherein system-created events are created according to a schedule in the system.

15 22. A process as recited in claim 21, wherein said schedule is created and maintained by the system based on subscription information available in the system.

23. A process as recited in claim 19, wherein a recurring event is created after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

20 24. A process as recited in claim 19, wherein minimum and maximum charge summary events are created after an end of a prior billing period and before the billing date for the recurring charge.

25 SUB 25. A system, comprising:  
a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system-created event has become current;  
a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system, and creating and maintaining summary events in real-time as events are priced.

30 26. A system, comprising:

a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system-created event is due to be created and creating system-created events at any time based on a flexible schedule; and

5 a continuously running pricing process, independent of a billing process, pricing of the system-created and non-system-created events as ready for the billing process and for display as they become available to the system with all events priced as they become available to the system and creating summary events as events are being priced and performing real-time recalculation of a charge for any unbilled event when information in  
10 the system which impacts charge has changed.

27. An apparatus, comprising:

a source of events; and

a processor pricing the events when the events are priceable.

15 28. A computer readable storage medium including a process controlling a computer and having a continuously running event creation process determining whether a system-created event is due to be created and a continuously running pricing process pricing the system-created events and non-system-created events as they become available to the system.

add  
CS

add  
DZ